

The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore Volunteer/Intern Position Description

Position Title: Conservation Education Intern

Department: Education

Supervised By: Director of Education Programs

Dates: May - August 2024

Time Commitment: Internships are 14 weeks and typically follow a part-time workweek pattern: Interns must be able to volunteer full-days at least twice a week, Mondays through Sundays, 8:30am-4:30pm. The department supervisor sets final schedules.

Overview: Founded in 1876, The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore is the third oldest zoo in the United States and is internationally known for its contributions in conservation and research. The Maryland Zoo is also a major tourist and education destination that welcomes 500,000 guests annually. The Education Department is responsible for engaging and inspiring guests to connect with nature, wildlife, and conservation. In doing so, our educators extend and enhance the value of the Zoo experience, and carry out the Zoo's mission: "to engage people in the wonders of the living world through personal encounters with animals, fostering empathy and lifelong support for conservation of wildlife and wild places." This internship is appropriate for those studying or interested in environmental science, conservation, biology or life science, education, communications, or other related fields. **Internships are unpaid, and there is no reimbursement for transportation or housing.**

Responsibilities:

- Support on-grounds and off-grounds educational experiences benefiting audiences of all ages and backgrounds.
- Assist staff with the preparation of educational materials and the delivery of educational programs using artifacts and hands-on activities.
- Gain insight into the operations of conservation education through training, shadowing, and hands-on experiences.
- Take ownership of creating a naturalist curriculum, with the support of the naturalist.

Qualifications:

- Must be at least 18 years of age and current college student or recent graduate;
- Ability to work with individuals from a wide variety of age groups and ethnic, cultural and economic backgrounds;
- Excellent communication and organizational skills;
- Friendly, outgoing and patient personality;

- Proficient in Microsoft Office applications and Google Workspace tools;
- Willingness to learn about Maryland Zoo amenities, layout, operations, animal collection and conservation efforts;
- Must be able to lift up to 30 pounds;
- Must be able to walk large areas of the Zoo and stand on hard surfaces for long periods of time; and
- Must be able to work outdoors in all seasons and weather conditions.

Training: All interns must complete Volunteer Orientation (2 hours), a Self-Guided Tour, and on-the-job training for position.

Benefits:

- The opportunity to learn in an AZA accredited facility.
- Hands-on experience, experiential learning and mentoring by our staff.
- Maryland Zoo Internships may be applied to receive college credit in accordance with your school's policy.
- Free Zoo admission, discount on purchases in Zoo gift shops and volunteer newsletter with wildlife news and Maryland Zoo happenings.